

**Common Course Outline**  
**ASLS 214**  
**Advanced Conversational ASL**  
**4 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**ASLS 214 – Advanced Conversational ASL** provides students with instruction in advanced grammatical features of American Sign Language (ASL). Students examine and practice basic syntactic rules for ASL and explore how the structure of ASL may be altered in different registers. Students work to increase both receptive and expressive skills while expanding their vocabulary and linguistic knowledge of ASL.

**4 Credits**

**Prerequisites:** ASLS 204 or permission of the program coordinator

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. analyze the formal features of ASL discourse;
2. demonstrate the alteration of grammatical structure of ASL in different registers;
3. demonstrate expanded ASL vocabulary and language skills;
4. identify and demonstrate usage of ASL classifiers;
5. identify and demonstrate use of constructed action and constructed dialogue in ASL;
6. formulate a variety of ASL common sentence structures;
7. recognize and demonstrate use of non-manual features of ASL;
8. utilize clarification strategies when communicating in ASL;
9. analyze and demonstrate use of the different verb types in ASL;
10. describe how different ASL verb types influence syntax;
11. execute spontaneously communication using ASL on a variety of topics;
12. produce use of referencing conceptual space;
13. describe how visualization impacts the overall grammatical structure of ASL;
14. evaluate how figure /ground constructions impact ASL grammar;
15. demonstrate use of perspective shift in ASL narratives; and
16. demonstrate ASL adverbial constructions.

**Major Topics**

- I. ASL Grammar
  - A. ASL Reference
  - B. Topic-comment
  - C. Wh-Question/Yes-No Question
  - D. Negation
  - E. Commands
  - F. Conditionals

- G. Rhetorical questions
- H. Verb types such as plain verbs, directional/indicating verbs and depicting verbs;
- II. ASL Slangs/Idioms
- III. Fingerspelling
- IV. Numeral Incorporations
- V. Classifiers
  - A. Descriptive
  - B. Locative
  - C. Semantic
  - D. Body part
  - E. Instrument
  - F. Body
  - G. Plural
  - H. Element;
- VI. Non-manual Signals
  - A. Head nods
  - B. Raised eyebrows
  - C. Tilted head
  - D. Pursed lips
  - E. Eye shifts
  - F. Eye gazes
  - G. Body shifts;
- VII. Register/ASL Variation
  - A. Formal register
  - B. Consultative register
  - C. Informal register
  - D. Intimate register;
- VIII. Spontaneous Language Use
  - A. General discourse
  - B. Current events
  - C. Deaf issues
  - D. Hobbies
  - E. Life experiences;
- IX. Mock interviews

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

### **Grading/exams**

- Assessment of spontaneous language usage, minimum of 60% of total grade
- A midterm and final comprehensive examination recorded and graded using video software
- A minimum of 10 homework assignments
- A minimum of 1 mock ASL proficiency interview

Written Assignments: Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

**Other Course Information**

This course is taught in American Sign Language in the interpreting lab with extensive use of audio and video recording equipment. Students must have access to a webcam and computer for homework assignments.

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